

Thank you for your comment, Ned Dikmen.

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Comment Date: December 14, 2010 15:16:13PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50015

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#### STATEMENT FROM THE GREAT LAKES BOATING FEDERATION

Preventing invasive species, including the Asian carp, from entering the Great Lakes is of utmost concern and is of epic proportions in the lives of the 4.3 million boaters using the lakes. These aquatic nuisances stand to ruin the family boating sport and hobby, and the \$7-billion fishing industry, and to cripple the \$10-billion annual economic impact contributed to the Great Lakes region by the boating community.

The fortified electric barriers are performing adequately, which leads us to believe that we are not ready to shut the Chicago locks. The absence of live Asian carp and traces of eDNA belonging to the carp family in waterways past the barriers indicate that the current protections against the Asian carp are sufficient, and that the government does not need to take further action to close the Chicago locks. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard, with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, are protecting us from the threat of Asian carp. Semi-regular fish netting and rotenone distribution are added protections to help ensure that the Asian carp does not make any headway into Lake Michigan.

The Great Lakes Boating Federation is well-aware that there are other avenues for the Asian carp to invade the Great Lakes through other lakes and tributaries. With other environmental agencies, the Great Lakes Boating Federation remains committed to protecting the Chicago Area Waterways and vigorously fighting to ensure that this watershed does not become a conduit for Asian carp transit.

The boating community's assessment of the Asian carp matter is in line with the recent court decision that closing the locks is not a solution. Closing the Chicago locks now is an unnecessary and costly jump to prevent the carp from entering the Great Lakes.

(Dec. 14, 2010)